GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1067
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
LOWEST TELE DENSITY STATES
Chowdhury Shri Bikash

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of lowest tele-density States in the country; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken to improve the situation and to expand the existing capacity of various telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Three lowest teledensity States in the country (and their teledensity as on 31-05-2004) are as given below:

(i) Chattisgarh - 1.48

(ii) Jharkhand - 1.65

(iii) Bihar - 1.83

(b) To improve the situation, Government has adopted Universal Access Service Licensing (UASL) under which service provider can provide Basic and / or Cellular Services using any technology. With this, service provider can provide complete mobility using WLL which was earlier classified as Basic Service.

BSNL alone has planned to provide 1 crore telephone connection in year 2004-05. This includes 7.5 lakh landline, 22.5 lakh WLL connections and 70 lakh Cellular Mobile connections. The Circle-wise details of telephone connections planned by BSNL for 2004-05 are given in Annexure. It is expected that with the participation of private sector and utilisation of Universal Service Obligation Fund, the teledensity in such States would also improve.

ANNEXURE
Circle-wise DELs target of BSNL for 2004-05

S.No.	Name of Circle	DELs Target
1.	Bihar	438300
2.	Chhattisgarh	102900
3.	Uttar Pradesh(East)	586600
4.	Assam	213600
5.	West Bengal	532000
6.	Jharkhand	151000
7	Madhya Pradesh	332200

8. Orissa	319200
9. North East-2	23000
10.Uttar Pradesh (West)	362500
11.Jammu & Kashmir	102100
12.North East-1	116800
13.Rajasthan	641700
14.Andhra Pradesh	639700
15.Uttaranchal	139900
16.Maharashtra	965500
17.Tamilnadu	548600
18.Karnataka	434400
19.Haryana	375000
20.Gujarat	663000
21.Himachal Pradesh	147700
22.Punjab	548000
23.Kolkatta	351700
24.Kerala	1018000
25.Andaman & Nicobar	9900
26.Chennai	236700
Total:	10000000